



# Staff Report

October 26, 2010

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: GREG GRAMMER, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: COYOTE UPDATE**

## **OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the City Council with an update on the issue of coyote trapping and sightings.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the direction of the City Council at the March 23 meeting, staff met with representatives of the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department (Ag Department) to discuss how to proceed with the implementation of a coyote trapping program in the City. On April 5, a letter was sent to the Ag Department requesting their service on an as-needed basis, with work to be performed under terms of the General Services Agreement with the County.

Since then, complaints about coyotes have been referred directly to the Ag Department. At the request of the homeowner, an Ag Department Inspector conducts a field assessment and, if warranted, places a neck restraint snare in a backyard area on private property to trap the coyotes. The Ag Department only sets traps if the Inspector is satisfied that a recurring problem exists with an aggressive coyote, and that the homeowners are not inadvertently attracting the coyotes to their property. Traps are monitored on a daily basis, Monday through Thursday. Traps are not set Friday through Sunday, so that a snared animal is not be made to suffer over the weekend.

Staff has continued to keep a log of all coyote sightings and reports, as follows (names and addresses have been removed):

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Coyote Sighting/Report</b>
March 9, 2010	Resident on Moccasin Lane	Called to report that her daughter in law and several neighbors have lost pets due to coyotes, some in the Deerhill area. No specific addresses.
March 11, 2010	Resident on Buckskin Lane	Called to inquire about the City's coyote policy and to report that some pets have been killed by coyotes in his neighborhood. No specific addresses.
March 12, 2010	Resident on Buckskin Lane	Stopped by City Hall to report that her dog was killed by a coyote on 3/10/10 and her cat was killed on 3/2/10. She also indicated that other neighbors have lost pets.
March 14, 2010	Resident on Roanwood	Called to express concern about aggressive coyotes. Uncomfortable walking on trail in the early evenings, even with her dog on a leash. Heard about several pets being killed by coyotes in her neighborhood.
March 24, 2010	Resident on Strawberry Lane	Resident reports by email that he lost a dog recently due to the coyotes and would like the City to take action. Lives adjacent to the canyon and Little League fields. Coyotes acting more aggressive and coming on to his property. Also reports that 3-5 houses at end of Strawberry Lane have had experiences with coyotes.
March 25, 2010	Resident in PVE	PVE resident reports by email that coyotes come out around 11:00 pm and around 5:00 am across the street from her house at the softball field and is afraid to walk at night.
March 26, 2010	Resident in PVE	PVE resident called to report that she regularly sees two coyotes in her neighborhood.
May 4, 2010	Resident on Branding Iron Lane	Believes pet dog killed by coyote. Dog was in her fenced-in backyard. Staff provided her with phone number of Ag Dept.
May 6, 2010	Resident on Hidden Valley Rd	Reported seeing 3 coyotes on her street – one coyote in her driveway at 8 am. She indicated

		that it was not unusual to see them in the canyons, but was surprised to see them so close to her home. Added that she does not want to see the animals harmed, but wanted to inform City Hall. Staff provided her with phone number of Ag Dept.
July 2, 2010	Resident on Buckskin Lane	Called to report coyote sighting in the arena on her property on 7/1 at 4:30 pm.
July 8, 2010	Resident on Buckskin Lane	Called to report coyote sighting in her arena on 7/9 at 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.
July 12, 2010	Resident on Buckskin Lane	Called to report coyote sighting in her arena on 7/11 at 10:00 am.
August 26, 2010	Resident on Lantana Place	By email: resident observed two coyotes running south on Montecillo Drive near the Jack Kramer Club heading toward PV Drive North and the Butcher property. Resident sent out an e-mail alert to Montecillo residents and received a reply from one resident who lives on upper Montecillo Drive and had seen a coyote in her driveway. Dead cat had been mauled on upper Aurora Drive.

## **FINDINGS**

Since the trapping program was implemented in April 2010, the Ag Department has visited three properties in Rolling Hills Estates in response to complaints about aggressive coyotes. Thus far, a total of two (2) such coyotes have been trapped. One coyote was caught on Branding Iron Lane on May 13, and another was caught on Buckskin Lane on July 13. A resident on Strawberry Lane contacted the Ag Department, but declined to allow traps on their property.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

To date, the total cost incurred by the City for work performed by the Ag Department for coyote trapping is \$1,361.53.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file this report.